

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2015

President Fraim called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Johnson, Mr. Protogyrou, Mr. Riddick, Mr. Smigiel, Dr. Whibley, Ms. Williams and Mr. Winn.

Mr. Fraim welcomed everyone to the new Slover Library and called on the Slover Foundation President, Harry Lester for remarks.

Mr. Lester gave a brief synopsis of the inception and creation of the new Slover Library. He reported that over 13,000 citizens attended the grand opening weekend January 9th through the 11th and participated in various events that included youth, teen and adult programs. He added that there are over 160,000 books and other items available to borrow at Slover.

Ms. Sonal Rastogi, Director of Libraries, reviewed several features of the new library. The Sargeant Memorial Local History & Genealogy Collection has an iTouch wall and table screens that provide access to historic images. The 2nd floor Slover wing is the Youth Library which features a KidZone, Playscape, Art Studio, computers and books. The 5th floor features a learning commons, study rooms and a gaming lounge for teens.

Mr. David Sullivan, Chief Information Officer, reviewed the library's various technologies. The library offers high-tech civic engagement spaces for meetings, receptions, and special events. Slover has 130 public computers, a digital media lab with a 3D printer and a Mac Lab. Digital displays in the library include interactive library catalog displays, a media wall, and interactive wayfinding displays. Other features include: Cuisine @ Slover, Digital Production Studio, and a gift shop.

Mr. Bill Inge, Assistant: Sergeant Memorial Collection, next gave a brief photographic history of the Slover Library site. Vice Mayor Williams asked what the City paid for the courthouse building in 1938. Mr. Inge stated that he would provide the amount at a later date.

COUNCIL INTERESTS

1. Councilwoman Johnson reported on the success of the “Feed the Hungry” event held at Richard Bowling Elementary School on December 20th and she thanked everyone who worked and volunteered.
2. Councilman Smigiel: a) asked if funding can be considered for reinstating the truancy center at the Workforce Development Center, b) distributed a letter from the Eagle On Alliance, noting that their lawsuit has been dropped because the eagles have now nested outside of the Norfolk Botanical Gardens and on private property, and c) reported that Bicycling and Pedestrian Trails Commission has concerns about the Norfolk Police Department’s ticketing of cyclists and that the Commission will begin working with the department and the City Attorney’s office to resolve those issues.
3. Councilman Protogyrou: a) commented on a complimentary article in “Coach and Athletic Director” about the MEAC tournament and he suggested it be shared with the public b) forwarded a letter to the City Manager from the Meadowbrook Civic League concerning neighborhood issues, and c) forwarded a citizen’s letter concerning a city pipe issue.
4. Councilman Riddick stated that he hoped that there are safeguards in place for parents to feel comfortable when dropping off their age-appropriate children to spend time at the new Slover Library. He stated that he hoped that the library staff and the Norfolk Police Department exercise zero tolerance for any situation that might be harmful to a child. Vice Mayor Williams echoed his concern but also stressed the importance of “age-appropriate” because library staff are not babysitters.
5. Councilman Riddick expressed concern about an alleged incident where a 10-year-old child was put in handcuffs. He asked the Police Chief for more information regarding the situation.
6. Vice Mayor Williams asked the City Manager if we can provide assistance to the Bank Street Memorial Baptist Church with re-establishing an historical marker.

NEW WASTE MANAGEMENT TRUCKS

Lori Crouch, Public Relations Manager, reported that the city will be adding five new waste management trucks. All the trucks will be equipped with GPS for improved efficiency. The city has developed an anti-littering campaign that mirrors a nationwide campaign created by “Keep America Beautiful” which will be displayed on each of the trucks.

ELECTED SCHOOL BOARD DISCUSSION

Council held a lengthy discussion regarding a preferred method for electing school board members – by ward, at-large or a hybrid method. Mayor Fraim asked members for preferences with the at-large system receiving the least support. Thereupon, Council asked the City Attorney to bring two ordinances to the January 27, 2015 meeting for action: one approving a ward system, the other a hybrid system.